

**Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A measuring tape for measuring the a distance between a first point and a second point comprising

a housing having a blade outlet and a blade hub centrally located inside said housing,

a flexible elongated blade having

~~one~~ a fixed end connected to said blade hub and coiled into a roll around the said blade hub,

a first lengthwise edge, and having

a free end having a widthwise edge and extending from said housing through said blade outlet, and

a tab fixed to the said free end of the blade for temporarily and removably hooking the said free end of the blade to the first point, said tab extending in a plane perpendicular to the said blade in at least ~~two~~ three directions transverse to a said lengthwise edge of the blade at the free end of the blade with such that no portion of the said tab extending extends substantially beyond said perpendicular plane that is perpendicular to the blade.

2. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape of claim 1, ~~the~~ wherein said blade ~~having further comprises~~

a second lengthwise edge and

two sets of indicia imprinted ~~thereon~~ onto said blade which correspond to units of measure,

the first set of indicia including numbers imprinted along a first lengthwise edge portion of the said blade and positioned on the said blade such that the ~~numbers~~ said indicia are arranged in an upright position one after the other and increase in value when read from the said free end of the blade toward the said fixed end of the blade, and

the second set of indicia including numbers imprinted along a second lengthwise edge portion of the said blade and positioned on the said blade such that the ~~numbers~~ said indicia are arranged in an upside-down position one after the other, relative to the said first set of ~~numbers~~ indicia, and increase in value when read from the said free end of the blade toward the said fixed end of the blade,

wherein one of the said sets of ~~numbers~~ indicia is legible right-side-up whether the said free end of the blade is positioned at the first point or the second point.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape of claim 1, wherein the tab having further comprises:

a bracket portion having a bracket end fixed to said free end and coplanar with said free end; and

and an X-shaped hook portion attached to said bracket end

~~wherein coplanar with and fixed to the free end of the blade and an X-shaped hook portion attached to the end of the bracket portion, the said hook portion extending extends upwardly, downwardly, and widthwise transverse to the said first lengthwise edge of the blade at the free end of the blade.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape of claim 1 wherein said tab comprises:

a bracket portion having a bracket end fixed to said free end and coplanar with said free end; and

~~the tab having a bracket portion coplanar with and attached to the free end of the blade and a circular disc-shaped hook portion attached to the said bracket end of the bracket portion, said hook portion extending radially 360 degrees transverse to the said first lengthwise edge of the blade at the free end of the blade.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape of claim 2, wherein

the said first set of indicia and said second sets of numbers-indicia being are arranged in a right-side-up orientation relative to the said first lengthwise edge and said second lengthwise edge portions of the blade, respectively.

7. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape of claim 2, wherein

the said first set of indicia and said second sets of numbers-being-indicia are arranged in an upside-down orientation relative to the said first lengthwise edge and said second lengthwise edge portions of the blade, respectively.

8. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape of claim 2, wherein

~~the tab being T-shaped and having a bracket portion coplanar with and fixed to the free end of the blade and a hook portion extending upwardly and downwardly transverse to the lengthwise edge of the blade at the free end of the blade, or~~

the tab comprises

~~having a bracket portion fixed to said free end and coplanar to said free end coplanar with and fixed to the free end of the blade and having a bracket end and~~

~~a hook portion selected from the group consisting of~~

~~an "X"-shaped hook portion attached to the end of the bracket portion said bracket end, the said hook portion extending upwardly, downwardly, and widthwise transverse to the said first lengthwise edge of the blade at the free end of the blade, or and~~

~~the tab having a bracket portion coplanar with and attached to the free end of the blade and a circular disc-shaped hook portion attached to the end of the bracket portion said bracket end, said hook portion extending radially 360 degrees transverse to the said first lengthwise edge of the blade at the free end of the blade.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape of claim 1,

~~the wherein said tab further comprising comprises a base fixed to the first end of the blades said free end and an extension removably connected to the said base, the said extension having a slot into which the said base is inserted for removable interconnection therewith, and the said extension extending in at least two three directions transverse to the said first lengthwise edge of the blade.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape recited in claim 9, wherein ~~the said base comprising comprises an "L"-shaped base, one portion of the said base being coplanar with and attached to the, and coplanar with, said free end of the blade.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape recited in claim 9, ~~the said extension being comprising an "X"-shaped hook that and extending extends~~ upwardly, downwardly, and widthwise transverse to the said first lengthwise edge of the blade.

12. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape recited in claim 9, ~~said the extension being comprising a circular disc extending radially 360 degrees transverse to the said first lengthwise edge of the blade.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape recited in claim 9, said blade further comprising a second lengthwise edge wherein said first set of indicia and said second sets of numbers-indicia being are arranged in a right-side-up orientation relative to the said first lengthwise edge and said second lengthwise edges of said blade, respectively.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A measuring tape for measuring the distance between a first point and a second point comprising

a housing having a blade outlet and a blade hub centrally located inside said housing,

a flexible elongated blade having

~~one a~~ fixed end connected to said blade hub and coiled into a roll around the said blade hub, and having

a first lengthwise edge, and

a free end having a widthwise edge and extending from the housing through the said blade outlet,

a removable tab attachable to said free end of the blade for temporarily and removably hooking ~~the said free end of the blade~~ to the first point, and

means for attaching ~~the said tab to the said free end of the blade,~~

wherein the said tab, when attached to the said free end, of the blade extending extends in a plane perpendicular to the said blade in at least two three directions transverse to a said lengthwise edge of the blade at the said free end of the blade with such that no portion of the said tab extending extends substantially beyond said perpendicular plane that is perpendicular to the blade.

18. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape recited in claim 17,

the said blade having further comprising

a second lengthwise edge and

two sets of indicia imprinted ~~thereon onto said blade~~ which correspond to units of measure,

the a first set of said two sets of indicia including numbers imprinted along a said first lengthwise edge portion of the blade and positioned on the said blade such that the numbers said indicia are arranged in upright position one after the other and increase in value when read from the said free end of the blade toward the said fixed end of the blade, and

the a second set of said two sets of indicia including numbers imprinted along a said second lengthwise edge portion of the blade and positioned on the said blade such that the numbers said indicia are arranged in upside-down position one after the other, relative to the said first set of numbers, and increase in value when read from the said free end of the blade toward the said fixed end of the blade,

~~wherein whereby one of the said sets of numbers-indicia is legible right-side-up whether the said free end of the blade is positioned at the first point or the second point.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape recited in claim 17, ~~the said~~ tab comprising a base fixed to said free end ~~of the blade and an extension removably connected to the said base, the extension having a slot into which the said base is inserted for removable interconnection therewith, the said extension extending in at least two-three directions transverse to a said first lengthwise edge of the blade at the said free end of the blade.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape recited in claim 19, ~~the said~~ base comprising an "L"-shaped base, one portion of ~~the said base being coplanar with and attached to, and coplanar with, said reference free end of said blade, the said extension being comprising an "X"-shaped hook and extending upwardly, downwardly, and widthwise transverse to a said first lengthwise edge of the blade at the said free end of the blade.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape recited in claim 19, ~~the said~~ base comprising an "L"-shaped base, one portion of ~~the said base being coplanar with and attached to, and coplanar with, the said free end of the blade, said extension being comprising a circular disc extending radially 360 degrees transverse to a said first lengthwise edge of the blade at the free end of the blade.~~

22. (Currently Amended) A removable tab extension adapted to be attachable ~~attached to the a free end of a blade of a measuring tape for temporarily and removably hooking the said free end of a blade of a measuring tape to the a point being measured from, the said measuring tape comprising a housing having a blade outlet and a blade hub centrally located inside said housing, a flexible elongated blade having one fixed end connected to said blade hub and coiled into a roll around said blade hub, a lengthwise edge, and having a free end extending from said housing through said blade outlet, and a tab fixed to said free end of the blade for temporarily and removably hooking the free end of the blade to the first point,~~ the tab extension comprising:

a connection portion having means for removably connecting the said tab extension to the said tab ~~fixed to the free end of the blade of the measuring tape,~~ and

a hooking device portion extending in a plane perpendicular to the said blade in at least ~~two-three~~ directions transverse to a said lengthwise edge of the blade of the measuring tape at the said free end of the blade when the said tab extension is attached to the said tab of the measuring tape with no portion of the said tab and said tab extension extending substantially beyond the said perpendicular plane that is perpendicular to the blade when the tab extension is attached to the tab of the measuring tape.

23. (Currently Amended) The tab extension of claim 22,

~~the said hooking device portion being comprising an "X"-shaped" hook and that extending extends upwardly, downwardly, and widthwise transverse to a said lengthwise edge of the blade at the said free end of the blade when the said tab extension is connected to the said tab of the measuring tape.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The tab extension of claim 22,

~~the said hooking portion being comprising a circular disc extending radially 360 degrees transverse to a said lengthwise edge of the blade at the free end of the blade when the said tab extension is connected to the said tab of the measuring tape.~~

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape of claim 1,

~~said tab being rotatably fixed to the said free end of the blade, said tab being such that said tab is rotatable 360 degrees transverse to the said lengthwise edge of the blade at the free end of the blade.~~

28. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape recited in claim 17, said tab being rotatably fixed to ~~the said free end of the blade, said tab being~~ such that said tab is rotatable 360 degrees transverse to a said lengthwise edge of the blade at the said free end of the blade.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) A measuring tape for measuring a distance between a first point and a second point comprising

a housing having a blade outlet and a blade hub centrally located inside said housing,

a flexible elongated blade having

a fixed end connected to said blade hub and coiled into a roll around said blade hub,

a first lengthwise edge, and

a free end having a widthwise edge and extending from said housing through said blade outlet, and

a tab rotatably fixed to said free end such that said tab is rotatable 360 degrees transverse to said lengthwise edge at said free end and configured for temporarily and removably hooking said free end to the first point, said tab extending in a plane perpendicular to said blade in at least two directions transverse to said lengthwise edge such that no portion of said tab extends substantially beyond said perpendicular plane

32. (New) A measuring tape for measuring the distance between a first point and a second point comprising

a housing having a blade outlet and a blade hub centrally located inside said housing,

a flexible elongated blade having

a fixed end connected to said blade hub and coiled into a roll around said blade hub,

a first lengthwise edge, and

a free end having a widthwise edge and extending from the housing through said blade outlet

a removable tab rotatably attachable to said free end such that said tab is rotatable 360 degrees transverse to said lengthwise edge at said free end and configured for temporarily and removably hooking said free end to the first point, and

means for attaching said tab to said free end of the blade,

wherein said tab, when attached to said free end, extends in a plane perpendicular to said blade in at least three directions transverse to said lengthwise edge at said free end such that no portion of said tab extends substantially beyond said perpendicular plane.